

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Office Action dated February 25, 2008.

### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101 & 112**

The Applicant contests the Examiner's allegation that claim 1 defines the present invention in terms of a mixture of both a method and an apparatus.

Claim 1 unequivocally relates to a method which comprises the steps of:

- (i) maintaining a page description corresponding to a printed form;
- (ii) receiving indicating data from an optically imaging pen operated by the user;
- (iii) retrieving the page description using the identity of the form; and
- (iv) identifying from the position of the nib and the retrieved page description, at

least one parameter relating to the bill paying transaction,  
wherein the position of the nib is computed using an observed perspective distortion on an imaged tag and a known geometry of pen optics.

However, in the format defined above, there is no antecedent basis for some essential features of the claimed method *viz.* "the tag", "the identity of the form" *etc.* Moreover, some features would be unclear without self-contained definitions in the claim *viz.* "the indicating data", "the tag" *etc.*

Thus, the claim contains additional definitions of certain features in order that it meets the requirements of 35 USC 112. These additional definitions of certain features do not amount to a combination of system features and method steps in one claim 1. Rather, claim 1 is a method claim which contains several self-contained definitions in order to provide the claim with the necessary clarity. This is a common and, indeed, necessary practice in drafting claims relating to complex methods.

In the Applicant's submission, the format of claim 1 does not give rise to any rejections under 35 USC 101 or 112. Claim 1 is unequivocally a method claim containing well-defined method steps. The inclusion of additional definitions within some method steps does not make the claim objectionable under 35 USC 101 or 112.

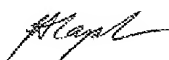
Similar comments apply to system claim 29, which unequivocally claims a computer system. Computer systems are typically defined in terms of how they are configured for performing certain functions. Claim 29 defines a computer system in this way and is not in any way a combination of method or system features.

The Examiner is requested to reconsider the newly raised rejections under 35 USC 101 and 112 in light of these submissions. If the Examiner considers that the rejections remain outstanding, then the Applicant would be pleased to consider any Examiner proposed amendments, which would be deemed to obviate the present rejections.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

Applicant/s:



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